



2014 Temporary/Seasonal Positions

USDA Forest Service, R-2 (Rocky Mountain Region) Black Hills National Forest



The Black Hills National Forest may be advertising and filling several Temporary positions for the following duty stations:

Bearlodge Ranger District – Sundance, WY | Northern Hills Ranger District – Spearfish, SD
Mystic Ranger District – Rapid City, SD and Hill City, SD
Hell Canyon Ranger District – Custer, SD and Newcastle, WY
Supervisor's Office – Custer, SD

This is a pre-announcement outreach notice. Vacancy announcement numbers for these positions will be available in January, 2014. At that time they may be obtained from the District offices, the Black Hills National Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r2/blackhills, or emailed to you if you complete the enclosed outreach response form. They will also be posted and searchable on the USA Jobs website, www.usajobs.gov, when they open.

Archeological Technician (GS-0102-4/5)

Primary duties include archaeological survey, site documentation, and site monitoring. Candidates must be able to conduct fieldwork for long hours in rugged terrain in often remote areas during inclement weather and be able to carry equipment and supplies weighing up to 40 lbs. Equipment use will include topographic maps, GPS units, cameras, compass, and may be asked to drive UTV's, 4X4 trucks.

Information Receptionist (GS-0303-3/4)

Duties include greeting visitors, answering telephones, and providing routine information about the forest and immediate area. The incumbent will also serve as collection officer for the District. Other duties involve performing data entry and typing tasks as needed, as well as preparing and processing correspondence, reports, and, hard-copy and electronic filing; records inventory, and mailing and shipping tasks.

Office Automation Clerk (GS-0326-3)

Duties include greeting visitors, answering telephones, and providing routine information about the forest and immediate area. The incumbent will also serve as a collection officer for the District. Other duties involve performing data entry and typing tasks as needed, as well as preparing and processing correspondence, reports, and records, hard-copy and electronic filing; records inventory, and mailing and shipping tasks.

Visitor Information Assistant (GS-1001-4)

This is a visitor services position. Employee must demonstrate ability to communicate with the public to disseminate information about National Forest Programs. Individual greets customers, answers the phone, and assists office personnel with computer tasks, filing, and cleaning of facilities. This position is with the Pactola Visitor's Center at Pactola Reservoir near Rapid City, SD.

Hydrologic Technician (GS-1316-4/5)

The primary duties associated with these positions include the inventory of road-stream crossings, conducting soil disturbance surveys, spring and wetland identification, and conducting mass movement surveys. Record all of the relevant data for the field work. The types of tools used to complete these tasks include: topographic maps, GPS units, cameras, compass, shovels, 4x4 trucks, and skills with Microsoft Office. Individuals will receive training in the different types of survey methods. Position will be required to have a state government issued driver's license.

Biological Science Aid (GS-0404-3)

Assists technical or professional personnel in performing various routine field tests employing standard biological techniques. Independently does routine, repetitive tasks on experiments or tests. Performs a variety of simple and routine tasks. Receives training and assists in experiments that are more complex. Field work is required.

Biological Science Technician - Botany (GS-0404-4/5)

Assists in the acquisition of field data by measuring and recording pertinent biological information peculiar to the specific assignment. Assists in the layout of experimental plots by taking measurements and marking corners and boundaries. Uses botanical key to identify plants encountered during field trips or surveys of Forest areas. Assists in the collection, handling, and preservation of specimens. Records all biological data pertinent to collections and preservation.

Biological Science Technician - Wildlife (GS-0404-4/5)

Independently, or as part of a team, participates in procedural wildlife-related assignments where methods and techniques are well established. Makes browse surveys; takes and records measurements such as counting stems, identifying species, measuring leaders, etc.; identifies and measures species and conditions; delineates wildlife habitat types on topographic maps; and, identifies habitat condition. Maintains records of investigations and trail data as requested by team leader or supervisor. Summarizes data obtained from field collections using prescribed statistical procedures. Assists in the attainment of field data by calculating and recording relevant biological information irregular to the specific assignment. Formulates and orders data as directed and prepares data for computer use. Assists in the collection, handling, and preservation of specimens.

Range Aid/Technician (GS-0455-3/4/5)

Assists specialists in carrying out rangeland management support projects. Makes a number of measurements using a variety of instruments. Performs computations that require judgment and knowledge of the nature of the sources and use of the data. Participates in noxious plant control, seeding, or similar projects by flagging boundaries, operating equipment, and carrying out kill studies. Identifies plant specimens in the field and collects and prepares specimens. Identifies plants and noxious weeds and determines how they grow. Serves as a crew member or leader on range improvement construction and re-vegetation projects that include construction of fences, cattle guards, water developments, repairing fences, prescribed burning, seeding, fertilizing, and pesticide application.

Forestry Aid (GS-0462-3)

Performs the full range of standardized forestry support duties for fire, timber, silviculture, recreation, wilderness, or research activities. Assists in one or more of the following duties: cruising timber by following specific instructions on taking and recording simple measurements and running compass lines in the field using compass and chain; noting compliance with rules and regulations on parking, campfire, sanitation, use of picnic sites, or hunting and fishing; maintaining and cleaning up recreation/wilderness areas; performing standard fire prevention, dispatch, or lookout duties; or performing various standard duties related to silviculture activities.

Forestry Technician - Recreation (GS-0462-4/5)

Contacts visitors to provide information about recreation regulations, opportunities, and current restrictions. Provides information on resource management practices in the area. Checks for compliance with regulations, issues notices for common violations, and reports other violations to supervisor. Assures recreation area and trails are maintained in accordance with standards. Constructs and rehabilitates minor recreation facilities and trails. Makes safety checks of public use areas and takes corrective action. Depending on grade, may direct or lead one or two lower grade employees engaged in recreation maintenance and/or contract work.

Forestry Technician - Trails (GS-0462-4/5)

Employee is a crew member or leader for duties in support of programs in recreation and wilderness management with the ability to hike long distances in a remote setting. Duties include maintaining and

constructing trails, installing waterbars, livestock guards, and/or bridges, using various tools and equipment. Performs trail log, condition surveys, trail clearing, and reconstruction. Patrols trails to ensure operation, use, and maintenance in accordance with standards. Uses tools such as chain saws, crosscut saws, adze, axes, and hand tools, and may operate ATV's, UTV's, 4X4 trucks and trailers.

Forestry Technician - Wilderness (GS-0462-4/5)

Employee is a crew member or leader for duties in support of programs in recreation and wilderness management with the ability of hiking long distances in a remote setting. Duties include checking visitor use, monitoring compliance with agency rules and regulations for campfires, sanitation, camp sites, party size, etc., performs trail log, condition surveys, trail clearing. Uses tools such as crosscut saws, adze, axes, and hand tools to maintain wilderness areas and trails utilizing minimal tool concept. Assists in re-establishment of native plants at denuded campsites and abandoned trails, completes water quality sampling, provides wilderness education and Leave No Trace guidance to visitors.

Forestry Technician - Timber Sales Prep (GS-0462-4/5)

Takes and or records basic measurements such as compass readings, distance measurements, tree heights, tree diameters, tree growth, and determines common species. Receives training on marking trees for cutting using tools such as Spiegel Relaskop, clinometer, compass, chain, diameter tape, increment borer, electronic field data recorder, etc. Selects and marks individual trees for harvest using well defined marking guidelines, silvicultural prescriptions, and specific instruction. Estimates individual tree volume by established methods. Traverses harvest units, produces maps. Designates sale area and cutting unit boundaries on the ground. Depending on grade, may provide leadership and direction to a crew performing a variety of field measurements, collection and monitoring tasks.

Forestry Technician - Timber Stand Improvement (GS-0462-4/5)

Inspects contracts for reforestation, timber stand improvement, or genetic tree improvement work such as planting, thinning, fertilizing, release, stand exam, cone collection, site preparation, and animal damage control. Examines plantations to determine present tree stocking and survival, tree species and conditions, presence of plantable areas for replanting or interplanting, competing vegetation species and density, and evidence of animal, insect or disease damage. Assists in preparation of contracts for planting, thinning, fertilization, release, etc., by performing unit traverse, map preparation, and providing data for contract preparation and unit examination.

Engineering Aid (GS-0802-3/4)

Primary duties include completion of routine inspections, acceptance of workmanship, compilation and drafting of inspection reports. Assists with road inventories, mapping, signing, traffic counts, or other work related to the maintenance of roads, trails, facilities, and other structures. Observes obvious deviations in data and checks to ascertain the apparent cause. Develops sketches, drawings, and/or work requests for engineering operations under the supervision of a senior technician or engineer. Candidates must be able to conduct fieldwork for long hours in rugged terrain in often remote areas during inclement weather and be able to carry equipment and supplies weighing up to 40 lbs. Equipment use will include topographic maps, GPS units, cameras, compass, surveying equipment, and may be asked to operate ATVs/UTVs and 4x4 trucks.

Engineering Equipment Operator (WG-5716-8)

Incumbent operates one or more types of heavy equipment, such as graders, tractors with bulldozer or angle dozer blades, front-end loaders, backhoes, trench diggers, and large industrial tractors with pan or scraper attachments. Work is generally done on flat or rolling terrain with simple terrain problems, such as forest roads or compounds. Incumbent maintains ditches, road shoulders, and beds and fire lines and clears brush, tree stumps and rocks. Reviews the work to be performed and adjusts equipment attachments for a set level, angle, or depth, according to the type of equipment used. Ensures equipment is maintained in good working condition.

FIRE

The Black Hills National Forest has one of the largest fire programs in the Rocky Mountain region and includes: an average of 105 ignitions per year burning 10,400 acres per year (in short return interval ponderosa pine), and staffs 8 Type VI, 3 Type IV Engines, 3 Type III Engines, two 10 person IA modules, an exclusive use Type III helicopter, a National exclusive use T1 Helicopter, an Interagency Hotshot Crew, airtanker base and an interagency dispatch center.

Forestry Aid - Fire (GS-0462-3)

These positions are part of a wildland fire crew, performing firefighting work on an engine or hand crew. Assignments include developing a working knowledge of fire suppression and fuels management techniques, practices and terminology. This consists of fireline construction, use of pumps and engines, hose lays, hand tools, chainsaws, working around aircraft, and patrolling fireline to locate and extinguish hotspots that may be a threat. Cleans and maintains fire tools and equipment. During prescribed burns, monitors and controls the fire, and collects data on fire weather and fire behavior. There may be frequent travel associated with these positions.

Forestry Technician – Engine (GS-0462-4/5)

Serves as a skilled crewmember on a wildland fire engine. Personally performs and may direct others in starting pump engine, priming pump, adjusting engine speed and pump valves, laying hose, and using appropriate nozzles and nozzle adjustment in effective use of water and additives. Responsible for positioning the fire engine or apparatus for safe and efficient operation. Performs engine operation duties in the suppression of wildland fires and prescribe fire. Drives engine to fire locations in consideration of safety of crew and equipment, and how the equipment can be best used in control and mop-up operations.

Forestry Technician – Hotshot Crew (GS-0462-4/5)

Forestry Technician – Hand Crew (GS-0462-4/5)

A minimum of 90 days of wildland firefighting experience is required prior to applying for the GS-5 level. This position serves as a skilled crewmember on a handcrew assigned to performing fire suppression duties under the most adverse conditions of climate, fuels, and terrain on the full range of complexity of fires. Utilizes a variety of specialized tools, equipment and techniques while actively suppressing wildfires, such as a Pulaski, shovel, McLeod, ax and chainsaw to control the spread of wildfire. Performs basic fireline activities such as line construction, lopping and scattering of fuels using hand tools and holding, patrolling, monitoring and mop-up operations. Moves dirt, chops brush, small trees, etc. to construct fire line. During prescribed burns, monitors and controls the fire, and collects data on fire weather and fire behavior. This position requires frequent travel to all parts of the country to perform suppression activities.

Forestry Technician - Helitack (GS-0462-4/5)

Minimum of 90 days of wildland firefighting experience is required to apply at the GS-5 level. Loads helicopter personnel and cargo considering methods, weight distribution, necessity for securing total weight, etc. and completes manifests of personnel and equipment being transported to the fire or other work site. Inventories and inspects helicopter accessories, fire tools, and equipment. Assures that needed tools and equipment are available for firefighting tasks. Builds fireline and lays or directs hose. There may be frequent travel associated with these positions.

Forestry Technician - Fire Dispatcher (GS-0462-5)

Minimum 90 days of wildland firefighting experience is required to apply. Serves as a dispatcher, receiving, filling, and tracking resource status and tracking systems and operates telecommunications systems. Collects, processes, collates and submits incident information to support fire operations. Inputs data into a number of fire-related computer applications.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT – FIRE POSITIONS

Successfully complete the WORK CAPACITY TEST (WCT) for **Wildland Firefighters**. Based on the type of work performed, TAKING and PASSING the WCT at the ARDUOUS level is a “condition of employment.” The Arduous fitness (Pack) Test consists of a three (3) mile hike, within forty-five (45) minutes, while carrying a forty-five (45) pound pack.

Limited housing is available for seasonal positions on a first come, first serve basis.

Many positions will require the operation of Forest Service vehicles or equipment. A valid state driver’s license is required in order to obtain a government driver’s license.

BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST

The Black Hills National Forest is 1.2 million acres of forested hills and mountains. It is 110 miles long and 70 miles wide, approximately 87 percent of which are in South Dakota and 13 percent in Wyoming. The Black Hills has been a special place for many to come for physical and spiritual renewal. The name “Black Hills” comes from the Lakota Sioux words, Paha Sapa - “hills are black”.

The climate is great– sunny, low humidity with summer daytime highs in the 80’s and winter daytime highs in the 30’s. Rainfall averages 17 inches per year and snowfall 32 inches.

Five National Park system destinations are adjacent to or within 50 miles of the Black Hills National Forest. These include Mount Rushmore National Monument, Wind Cave National Park, Jewel Cave National Monument, Badlands National Park, and Devils Tower National Monument. In addition, the nation’s second largest state park, Custer State Park, is located in the southeastern Black Hills area.

Supervisor’s Office
1019 N. 5th St.
Custer, SD 57730
605-673-9200

BEARLODGE RANGER DISTRICT

The Bearlodge District totals about 200,000 acres in the northern part of the Black Hills within the State of Wyoming. Timber harvest and related silvicultural activity is the largest resource program on the district. Average annual timber offer is about 15 million board feet. The district also has very active programs in lands and minerals, wildlife habitat improvement, recreation, cultural resources, and livestock grazing.

Bearlodge Ranger District has an office on the eastern edge of Sundance, Wyoming, which has a population of approximately 1,200. Sundance is located 30 miles west of Spearfish, South Dakota, 74 miles northwest of Rapid City, South Dakota.

101 S. 21st St.
Sundance, WY 82729
307-283-1361

NORTHERN HILLS RANGER DISTRICT

The Northern Hills Ranger District encompasses approximately 326,000 acres in the northern part of the Black Hills. Vegetation management (timber harvest/fuels reduction) and related silvicultural activities are the largest resource programs on the District. Average annual timber offer is about 30 million board feet. Fuels and KV programs treat about 10,000 acres per year. The district also has very active programs in lands and minerals, wildlife habitat improvement, recreation, cultural resources, and livestock grazing.

We share a number of positions with the adjacent Bearlodge Ranger District which is 30 miles away in Sundance, Wyoming. Spearfish is located 45 miles west of Rapid city, South Dakota and ten miles east of the South Dakota/Wyoming state line. The population is about 13,000, including nearby developments.

2014 N. Main
Spearfish, SD 57783
605-642-4622

MYSTIC RANGER DISTRICT

The Mystic Ranger District encompasses approximately 356,000 acres in the central part of the Black Hills. Timber harvest (and related silviculture activities) is the largest resource program on the district. The district also has very active programs in lands and minerals, wildlife habitat improvement, recreation, fire, cultural resources, and livestock grazing.

The Mystic Ranger District has two duty stations: Rapid City, SD and Hill City, SD. Rapid City (population 69,000) is the major population and retail center for the region. Most employees are based out of Rapid City. Hill City (population 1,000) is located 26 miles south of Rapid City. The Hill City duty station hosts half of the Mystic District's fire crew, and is where the District's government quarters are located.

8221 S. Hwy 16
Rapid City, SD 57702
605-343-1567

HELL CANYON RANGER DISTRICT

The Hell Canyon Ranger District manages approximately 440,000 acres of the Black Hills National Forest, with a timber program offering from 10-20 million board feet annually. The district has a multiple use program including ponderosa pine management, range, fire, fuels, lands, minerals, wildlife, heritage resources, recreation and wilderness. The district manages the Black Elk Wilderness and the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve within the Black Hills National Forest.

One fourth of the employees work out of an office in Newcastle, WY (population 3,400), 36 miles west of Custer; all other employees work out of Custer, SD (population 2,000).

330 Mt. Rushmore Rd
Custer, SD 57730
605-673-4853

1225 Washington Blvd
Newcastle, WY 82701
307-746-2782